

DIVISION OF DAKOTA TERRITORY.

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MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF DAKOTA TERRITORY.

ASKING

*For the division of the present Territory of Dakota, and the erection of an additional territorial organization out of the northern part of the same.*

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JANUARY 27, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on the Territories and ordered to be printed.

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*To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, most respectfully pray that the present Territory of Dakota may be divided, and a new territorial organization made out of the northern part thereof, and a government and officers provided for the same. We respectfully pray that the boundaries of the new Territory may be the same as for the northern boundary for Dakota, and the eastern and western boundaries of the same as far south as the dividing line as hereafter given. That the dividing line be as follows, to wit: Commencing at the point in the eastern boundary of the Territory of Dakota, near the northern end of Lake Traverse, where the seventh standard parallel, as surveyed and established within and for the survey of the Wahpeton and Sisseton Indian reservation, closes on said boundary; thence west along said seventh standard parallel within said reservation to the western boundary of said reservation; thence north twelve degrees and sixty-two seconds west along said reservation boundary to the closing corner of the seventh standard parallel of the regular United States public land survey; thence west along said seventh standard parallel to the Missouri River; thence up the channel of the Missouri River to the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude; thence west along the forty-sixth parallel to the western boundary of the Territory of Dakota.

We further represent that this particular line of division is asked in order to accommodate the settlements already made in the Territory, leaving all those north of the Wahpeton and Sisseton reservation in the new Territory, and all south of the same in the Territory of Dakota; also, because a base-line for the public surveys, when used as a bound-

any line, prevents the fractional division of surveys which would be rendered necessary if an artificial line was named; and because the line herein described is already surveyed, marked, and established for a considerable distance from the eastern boundary, and will be established hereafter in the prosecution of the public surveys, without additional expense for surveying it as a boundary.

We further respectfully represent that we believe the public interests alike of the United States and this Territory now demand this division, and that the convenience and economy of the citizens of both parts favor this division. There are no interests in common between the two parts. Communication is slow and difficult. While east and west railroads are being constructed in both divisions, no north and south lines can be expected soon. The trade, commerce, and enterprise, the markets and communications of each part, are distinct and separate. Differing motives and interests govern the citizens of each part, and it is hardly practicable to represent and promote the best good of both parts in the same territorial legislature, or under the same territorial government. In all matters of local enterprise, the encouragement of immigration and the settlement of the country, the best good and largest results can only be attained through separate organization. An examination of the map will exhibit these reasons more effectively.

We also respectfully refer to the present rapidly increasing development of the two sections. Immigration is now being greatly encouraged to both parts by every inducement. The last election showed a large vote in the northern part. Causes now actively operating will rapidly augment all these reasons for division. The area of the present Territory is over 150,000 square miles. The diversity of interests and wide separation of the different parts forbid the hope that a proper development can be attained as at present organized.

For these and other reasons your memorialists earnestly ask the division to be authorized by an early law.

And, as in duty bound, your memorialists will ever pray.

Approved December 31, 1872.

I certify that the above is a true copy of a memorial passed at the tenth session of the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, and approved by me on the 31st day of December, A. D. 1872.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the Territory this 10th day of January, 1873.

JOHN A. BURBANK,

*Governor.*

Attest:

[SEAL.]

EDWIN S. MCCOOK,

*Secretary.*